

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2933

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 617

UNCLAS RABAT 3973

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN ADDRESSES NATION ON SPANISH SAHARA

1. KING HASSAN DEVOTED 20-MINUTE SPEECH ON 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FATHER'S EXILE EXCLUSIVELY TO SPANISH SAHARA PROBLEM. HE SAID HE HAD BECOME AWARE OF SPANISH PLANS TO ASK UN TO SET PROCESS OF SAHARAN SELF-DETERMINATION IN MOTION AND TO SET A DATE FOR A REFERENDUM WITHIN SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS. THIS NEWS HAD LED HIM TO CHANGE SPEECH WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED "IN ANOTHER SPIRIT."

2. KING SAID THAT, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY NOTED, MOROCCO WAS AGREEABLE TO REFERENDUM. HE WAS CONVINCED, HE SAID, THAT MOROCCANS STILL LIVING UNDER SPANISH DOMINATION HAD NO OTHER DESIRE THAN TO RETURN TO MOTHERLAND. VOTING MUST OF COURSE TAKE PLACE UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AFTER WITHDRAWAL

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OF SPANISH TROOPS AND ADMINISTRATION.

3. FURTHER, SHOULD THERE BE REFERENDUM, FORMULATION OF QUESTION ON WHICH SAHARANS WILL BE INVITED TO VOTE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER MOROCCO ACCEPTS OR REFUSES PRINCIPLE OF REFERENDUM. IF PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR SAHARANS WERE INCLUDED, MOROCCO WOULD BE OBLIGED, FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, TO REJECT A DECISION OF UN. FOR IT WOULD BE PARADOXICAL TO

APPLY PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE ONLY TO THOSE TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND "MOROCCAN SAHARANS" WHO HAPPENED TO BE LIVING IN SPANISH SAHARA, WITHOUT SIMILARLY INCLUDING SAHARANS LIVING IN NEIGHBORING AREAS OF MOROCCO, ALGERIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, AND SENEGAL.

AS ALTERNATIVE TO REFERENDUM,

4. KING CITED UN'S HANDLING OF WEST IRIAN PROBLEM BETWEEN HOLLAND AND INDONESIA AS PERHAPS BEST EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW IN DEALING WITH SAHARA QUESTION. HOLLAND HAD PROPOSED REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE FUTURE OF THIS INDONESIAN TERRITORY AND, FOLLOWING POLEMIC AND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO PARTIES, QUESTION HAD BEEN REFERRED TO UN. TWO PARTIES THEN INVITED TO NEGOTIATE PROBLEM BILATERALLY, WITH BUNKER PROVIDING GOOD OFFICES. AFTER THESE TALKS, WEST IRIAN WAS RESTORED TO INDONESIA WITHOUT A REFERENDUM AND WITHOUT UN BEING FORCED TO TAKE POSITION WHICH WOULD HAVE EMBARRASSED EITHER INDONESIA OR HOLLAND.

5. KING STRESSED THROUGHOUT SPEECH MOROCCO'S PREFERENCE THAT PROBLEM BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. MOROCCAN EMISSARIES WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO WORLD CAPITALS TO ARGUE GOM'S CASE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EMPHASIZE MOROCCAN COMMITMENT TO DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL MEANS. HOWEVER, SHOULD THESE METHODS NOT LEAD TO RECOVERY OF TERRITORY, HE SAID THAT MOROCCO WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RESORT TO OTHER MEANS.

6. ANALYSIS FOLLOWS SEPTEL.COON

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